

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20 EB-08 /119 W
-----004475 300609Z /12

R 281548Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PRAIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0302
INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU POUCH
AMEMBASSY DAKAR POUCH
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS PRAIA 0387

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, ESOC, UNHRC, AO, CV
SUBJECT: REPATRIATION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES

REF: LISBON 6113 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

1. TOTAL OF NEARLY 140 ANGOLANS HAVE RETURNED TO LUANDA FROM CAPE VERDE OVER PAST TEN WEEKS, WITH ONE FLIGHT OF ANGOLAN AIRWAYS CARRYING EIGHT-ONE RETURNEES. MOST OF THE RETURNEES WERE FROM THE AREA OF LUANDA AND MANY HAD BEEN IN CAPE VERDE SINCE 1975. THE MAJORITY OF THOSE RETURNING HAVE ALSO BEEN UNEMPLOYED IN CAPE VERDE AND HAD BEEN LIVING VERY PRECARIOUSLY. IN ADDITION TO ANGOLAN RETURNEES A HANDFUL OF CAPEVERDEANS HAVE RETURNED TO ANGOLA, PROBABLY IN SEARCH OF JOBS WHICH ARE VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT ON THE ISLANDS.

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2. WHILE SOME FEW CAPEVERDEANS ARE WILLING TO TAKE THEIR CHANCES BACK IN ANGOLA THERE IS STILL A SMALL NUMBER OF CAPEVERDEANS RETURNING FROM ANGOLA TO CAPE VERDE EACH WEEK. THOSE COMING OUT OF ANGOLA CITE DIFFICULT LIVING CONDITIONS, COMMONPLACE VIOLENCE AND FEAR OF FURTHER RACIAL PROBLEMS AS REASONS FOR LEAVING. ONE RATHER WELL-TO-DO CAPEVERDEAN WHO WORKS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER

THAT HE IS SAVING EVERY CENTAVO THAT HE CAN AND WILL LEAVE
ANGOLA ONCE HIS POT OF ESCUDOS REACHES ONE THOUSAND CONTOS
(30,000 DOLLARS); HE NOW HAS EIGHT HUNDRED CONTOS.
THE FELLOW GAVE AS A REASON FOR HIS PLANS TO LEAVE HIS
BELIEF THAT THE DAYS OF THE CAPEVERDEANS IN ANGOLA ARE
NUMBERED AND THAT THE MORE THAN THIRTY THOUSAND CAPEVERDEANS
NOW IN ANGOLA WILL ONE DAY SOON HAVE TO GO ELSEWHERE.
WITH THE DOORS CLOSING IN PORTUGAL, SENEGAL AND HOLLAND AND
GIVEN THE PERSISTENCE OF THE DROUGHT IN CAPE VERDE, ONE
WONDERS WHEN THEY WILL BE ABLE TO FIND REFUGE.
MCGOWAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPATRIATION, REFUGEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRAIA00387
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780353-0906
Format: TEL
From: PRAIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780817/aaaaaol.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ec2b635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LISBON 6113
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1601974
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPATRIATION OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, SOCI, AO, CV, UNHRC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ec2b635a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014